

# OBITUARY

## A G YATES

MA, MD, FRCP

Dr A G Yates, formerly honorary physician to Sheffield Royal Infirmary and the City General Hospital, died on 26 January. He was 95.

Arthur Gurney Yates was born in 1881 at Spalding, Lincolnshire, the son of a Congregational minister. As a boy he was apprenticed to a Sheffield pharmacist, and it was then that his interest in medicine was aroused. He qualified at the Edinburgh Medical School and returned to Sheffield as house physician at Sheffield Royal Infirmary in 1908 to serve the city and the university with distinction for the rest of his long life. He was appointed honorary physician to the Royal Infirmary in 1912 and remained with that hospital and the city general hospital until his retirement from the staff in 1947. During the first world war he served in the RAMC, and as registrar of the 3rd Northern General Hospital throughout the second world war he was responsible for the reception in Sheffield of all wounded servicemen.

A G Yates was a man of great academic distinction: master of arts, doctor of medicine, fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, past president of the Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland, and a past president of the Sheffield Medico-Chirurgical Society. In spite of his many commitments he found time for two interesting hobbies: photography and carpentry. He was a real artist in composition and technique, and he made his own furniture. He was a Freemason, and became a distinguished officer of Grand Lodge. As a speaker he was outstanding, and he brought together many of his speeches in a small private publication. These reflect his personality, his many interests, and his understanding of human nature. Twice married, he is survived by his second wife and by one of the two daughters of his first marriage.—ABN.



to the fellowship. After junior appointments at the London Hospital he became resident medical officer at Maida Vale Hospital and later at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham. He moved to general practice at Harrogate in 1935 and was appointed to the consulting staff soon after. During the second world war he served in the RAMC in West Africa, attaining the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was a long-standing member of the BMA, the Heberden Society, and the Royal Society of Medicine, in which he served as president of the section of physical medicine in 1962. He was chairman of the local division when the BMA held its Annual Meeting at Harrogate in 1970 and discharged his duties with a tact and organising ability that helped towards a most successful meeting. He was also chairman of the local diabetic association for many years and published a number of papers on general medical topics and on rheumatism. At the London Hospital he was fortunate in having outstanding teachers, and throughout his career he continued to apply their high standards uncompromisingly.

Dr Reah was a quietly devout man and was a sidesman at his church. He was a member of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club and enjoyed nothing better than a day at Headingley. It was a great loss to him when his wife Ruth, who was trained as a nurse at the London and Middlesex hospitals, died in 1971 after a long battle with crippling rheumatoid arthritis. His own last years were marred by a progressive disabling illness whose inexorable advance he recognised and bore with stoicism and rare courage. He was sustained through this adversity by the loving care of his sisters. He is survived by them and by his two sons.—MRJ.

## Lieutenant-Colonel J D SANDES

BA, MD, FRCP, IMS (Ret)

Lieutenant-Colonel J D Sandes, formerly professor of medicine at the Medical College, Calcutta, died on 6 January. He was 93.

John Drummond Sandes was born at Dublin. A brilliant student of Trinity College, Dublin, and the Meath Hospital, he graduated in medicine in 1906 and proceeded MD in 1921. During the first world war he served at sea. He then entered the Indian Medical Service and in the course of his 27 years' service was professor of medicine at the Medical College, Calcutta, and senior physician to the Medical College Hospital, from 1928 to 1935. For many years he was consulting physician to the Government of Bengal and to all the Calcutta hospitals. After his retirement from the IMS in 1935 he was selected by the Emergency Committee of the BMA for a consulting appointment with the Army in case of war. When war broke out he was in France and worked at the Consulate General at Nice helping to draw up a plan for the conversion of hospitals, nursing homes, and hotels to military hospitals. After the fall of France he helped in the evacuation of British refugees from the Riviera and on arriving in

England in 1940 volunteered for service and was accepted for the RAMC. With the rank of acting colonel he became medical specialist to Stranmillis Military Hospital at Belfast and then temporary commander to the 20th General Hospital at Moira before it went overseas. Finally he was consultant in medicine to Region 4 as part of the Emergency Medical Service. After the war Sandes practised as a physician at Monte Carlo, where he was very popular with his French colleagues.

Sandes was charming and witty, something of a ladies' man, which amusingly he remained to the last, never losing his spare good looks and slim upright carriage, and he also kept his acute intelligence and interest in current affairs.

## Group Captain R L SCOTT

BSC, MB, CHB, RAF (Ret)

Group Captain R L Scott died at his home at Ruthin, North Wales, on 2 January. He was 64.

Ronald Leslie Scott was born on 29 January 1912 at Dunfermline and educated at Daniel Stewart's College, Edinburgh, and St Andrews University, where he graduated in 1935. After a short spell in general practice at Dundee he joined the RAF Medical Service in 1937. His service was wide both geographically and in experience. He will be particularly remembered by



his many friends in Transport Command in the Middle East and Mediterranean theatres during the second world war. After the war he served in Austria and Italy, and on returning to Britain moved into the hospital field as a medical specialist. He was finally appointed to command the RAF Rehabilitation Unit at Chessington. In 1960, for family reasons, he returned to civilian life, taking up the post of physician to Ruthin Castle Clinic until it closed in 1963. He was then appointed assistant senior medical officer to the former Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, a post he retained until the service was reorganised in 1974, after which he joined the National Blood Transfusion Service.

Ronald Scott was a fine athlete and a keen golfer, and also represented the RAF at tennis. He was a keen collector of antiques. He loved Scotland, but soon became attached to North Wales, where he had many friends. He is survived by his wife and two sons.—BGG-W.

RC writes: I had the pleasure of meeting Ronald Scott in the early 'sixties when he joined the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board. We had both worked abroad for a large part of

## T G REAH

MA, MD, FRCP

Dr T G Reah, formerly senior physician to the General Hospital and the Royal Bath Hospital, Harrogate, died on 11 February. He was 71.

Thomas Glentworth Reah was born on 20 May 1905 at Stockton-on-Tees. He studied medicine at Downing College, Cambridge, and the London Hospital, where he obtained several prizes. In 1931 he graduated, proceeding MD three years later. He obtained the MRCP in 1932 and was subsequently elected

our professional careers and shared many interests and became close friends almost immediately. Ronald had a delightful sense of humour and enjoyed discussing in a most penetrating way practically any subject under the sun. He was also an excellent sportsman and first-class bridge player and he led a full life both professionally and socially. He is sadly missed.

### J G R SCARFF

MB, CHB, FRCS(ED)

Mr J G R Scarff, formerly consultant ENT surgeon to the United Bristol Hospitals, has died. He was 82.

James Gordon Russell Scarff was educated at the City of London School and Edinburgh University, graduating in medicine in 1920 and taking the FRCSEd in 1925. His undergraduate service was interrupted for four years by service with the Northumberland Fusiliers, in which he attained the rank of captain. After qualification he held house appointments at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and became registrar to the ENT department of the Middlesex Hospital. Then after a short time in general practice at Wellington, Somerset, he was appointed ENT surgeon to Bristol General Hospital in 1927. He retired in 1956 and went to live in Sussex. Gordon was a hardworking and conscientious surgeon of the preantibiotic age. He kept abreast of advances in technique, especially in middle ear surgery, although he retired before the microscope came into general use. He was a keen golfer and also studied the history and architecture of the Saxon and Norman downland churches of Sussex and Hampshire. He is survived by his wife Janet and one daughter. His only son was tragically killed in a car accident.—HDF.

### F C MAYO

MRCS, LRCP

Dr F C Mayo, who was in general practice at Malton, north Yorkshire, for 35 years before his retirement in 1968, died on 21 December. He was 71.

Francis Carbutt Mayo was born on 21 April 1905, the son of a doctor, and educated at Rugby and Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he was a member of the Hawks Club and the mountaineering club. He qualified from King's College Hospital, where he held surgical house appointments, and shortly afterwards joined a partnership at Malton, where, after only a few weeks, he was involved in a disastrous epidemic of typhoid with over 200 cases and some 25 deaths. Very adept and neat with his hands, he was a competent GP surgeon and worked as such in the local cottage hospital. When this became a GP hospital he held an appointment there as clinical assistant in surgery until he retired. Before 1939 he was medical officer to the Yorkshire Hussars and spent the whole of the second world war

on active service in Palestine and North Africa and later in Italy in command of a field ambulance. He held the rank of lieutenant-colonel and as ADMS was in charge of all British medical arrangements at the Potsdam Conference. He was later appointed a deputy lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Dr Mayo was held in affection and esteem by a large number of his patients in all walks of life. An active churchman, he was concerned in numerous welfare activities, being instrumental in founding a local branch and home of the Abbeyfield Society. After he retired he worked actively with the Samaritans. He took a full part in all the games and field sports that a rural community offers. He had always been clever at woodwork, and when he retired he made himself expert at repairing and restoring old furniture. He was commissioned to design and make two chairs for the chapel in the Tower of London, and these were duly consecrated in 1975. In the slowly progressive illness that shadowed his last years he showed great patience and fortitude. Dr Mayo is survived by his wife and two daughters.—FLAH.

### D L BROADHEAD

MRCS, LRCP

Dr D L Broadhead, who recently retired as senior partner of a group practice at Edenbridge, Kent, died suddenly at home on 5 February. He was 60.

Denis Lumb Broadhead, the son of a headmaster, was born on 17 November 1916 and educated at the Leys School. He originally embarked on a legal career, but changed to medicine, and after obtaining the Conjoint qualification in 1944 saw active service with the RAMC in the Far East towards the end of the war. After demobilisation he went into partnership at Edenbridge when it was a small town. Over the years the population greatly increased, and it was with vigour and good common sense that he formed the present group practice. It was without doubt his personality that made it such a happy partnership over the years. Unfortunately his personal life was marred by tragedy, and when his younger son was killed in a road traffic accident Dr Broadhead never seemed to recover his natural ebullience. Also he suffered ill health and had to retire prematurely last August. In addition to medical interests, he was very much concerned in the affairs of the community, and at one time was chairman of the parish council. He was an enthusiastic member of the local bowls club and a Rotarian, and he supported the ancient parish church. He will always be remembered for his generosity of spirit and great kindness to those in trouble. He is survived by his son, who is a paediatrician, and by his daughter.—JHTS.

### ANGELA M HOWE

BA, BM, BCH

Dr Angela Howe, a senior registrar in haematology at St George's Hospital, London, died in the Sutton Branch of the Royal Marsden Hospital on 12 January. She was 47.

Angela Mary Howe, the eldest daughter of Lord Brock, was born on 23 December 1929. She was educated at Malvern Girls' College and entered Somerville College, Oxford, with an open exhibition and proceeded to Guy's Hospital, where she qualified in 1954. She did house appointments at St John's Hospital,

Lewisham, and St James's Hospital, Balham. She married and for the time being abandoned her interest in medicine while raising her family of three sons and a daughter. In 1963 she went with her family to Columbus, Ohio, where her husband held a surgical fellowship with Dr Robert Zollinger. In 1971, when the children were all settled in school, she resumed her medical work as a trainee pathologist in haematology and in 1974 passed the primary examination of MRCPPath, working in the South-west Metropolitan Region. Unfortunately grave illness interrupted her work and the last 18 months of her life were attended by successive and increasingly severe symptoms, an illness borne with great determination and courage that won the admiration of all. She is survived by her husband Colin, who is a reader in surgery at King's College Hospital medical school, and by her four children.

### J J CREHAN

MRCS, LRCP

Dr J J Crehan, who was in general practice at Sheffield, died suddenly while on holiday in Miami. He was 63.

John Joseph Crehan qualified at Sheffield in 1939 and started his medical career as an assistant in a large practice in the Park district of that city. The principal was called up for military service and Dr Crehan carried on the practice singlehanded until 1944, when he went into partnership with the principal when he was demobilised. A most conscientious practitioner, he took a special interest in old people and insisted in looking after them in their own homes until admission to hospital was absolutely necessary. He kept himself abreast of medical advances and regularly attended postgraduate courses. He was medical officer to Shrewsbury Hospital, a group of almshouses administered by the Duke of Norfolk's estate. Dr Crehan's wife died five years ago and he is survived by his daughter and two sons.—JAGW.

### J L DIGBY ROBERTS

TD, MB, BS, FRCS, FRCP

Dr J L Digby Roberts, a general practitioner in private practice at Hove, died on 31 January after a short illness. He was 64.

James Llewellyn Digby Roberts was born on 15 July 1912 at Kalimpong, India, where his father was a medical missionary. His early



years were spent in India, where a favourite family pastime was butterfly hunting on horseback: the superb family collection, which his father initiated, was to become a lifelong hobby. He went to England to be educated at King's School, Ely, and St Bartholomew's Hos-

pital. After posts at Barts and Princess Beatrix Hospital he took the FRCS in 1939. Then came war service, first in the Middle East and West Africa, then as surgeon to the Parachute Brigade, Airborne Division. After the war he decided to go into general practice. He was five years at Broxbourne before he moved to

Hove to join a well-established private practice.

Digby was a cultured, warm, good-humoured man who generated affection and respect wherever he went. He was widely read and had many interests. He was a churchwarden of St John's Church, Hove. He was ADMS to 44 (Home Counties) Division of the Territorial Army and at the time of his death medical officer to the Sussex Army Cadet Force, TAVR. He was also an officer of the Order of St John, and medical officer to the Police Convalescent Home, Hove. He refereed for and was later chairman of the Brighton and Hove Hockey Club, and he was founder-chairman of the Hove Civic Society. Among other offices he had been treasurer of the Brighton and Cuckfield Division of the BMA for the last ten years. He was a founder member of the Sussex Postgraduate Medical Centre and financial secretary to the Brighton and Sussex Medico-Chirurgical Society. In 1952 he became a fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners and was provost of the South-east England faculty from 1969 to 1971. A particular interest of his was the Innominate Society, a small medical club holding its meetings in members' homes in rotation, the host for the evening delivering a paper. Digby will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife, son, and daughter.—RIKE.

## D S CLARKE

BA, MB, BCH, BAO

Dr D S Clarke, formerly in general practice in London, died on 20 January. He was 92.

David Solomon Clarke was born at Belfast on 6 April 1884 and educated at Queen's College, Belfast. He took an arts degree in 1905 and graduated in medicine in 1909. He held posts at the Military Hospital, Bagthorpe, Nottingham, and at Bagthorpe Infirmary. During the first world war he served in Belgium and France as a captain in the RAMC. After working as an assistant to a general practitioner at Bristol he became resident assistant medical officer at the Central Middlesex Hospital, Willesden, in 1920. Three years afterwards he resigned and started his own private practice, which grew rapidly. Dr Clarke later became associated with other doctors, and most of his relatives were qualified. He continued in active practice in north-west and west London until he was 90, turning out whenever necessary and preferring to walk in all weathers. He was a keen football and boxing fan, and in his younger days an enthusiastic producer of hospital revues. His wife died at an early age, as did his younger daughter. He is survived by his other daughter and by his son.

## G I G FINDLAY

MB, CHB

Dr G I G Findlay, formerly a regional medical officer, has died at his home at Askerswell, Dorset. He was 68.

George Ian Garrioch Findlay was educated at Peterhead Academy and graduated in medicine at Aberdeen in 1931. After residential posts at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary he entered general practice at Ilford, Essex. At the outbreak of war Ian joined the RAMC and later was interned by the Japanese in Singapore. During those years he underwent great privation. He earned the gratitude of his fellow internees for his devotion to duty and

also for passing messages out of the prison camp when he was allowed out to collect Red Cross medical parcels. This he did at great personal risk. After the war he returned to general practice at Ilford and became clinical assistant in ophthalmology to Sir Benjamin Rycroft. He continued in practice until 1959 and then took up the difficult and somewhat unrewarding work of regional medical officer. It is sad that his retirement in the Dorset countryside, which he loved, was so short. His colleagues on the local pensions and industrial injuries board will miss him greatly. He is survived by his wife, three sons, and a daughter.—EP.

## J R M MILLAR

MB, BCHIR, DCH, DOBSTRICOG, MRCGP

Dr J R M Millar, who was in general practice at Oxford, died on 21 December. He was 47.

James Rennie MacGregor Millar was born at Srinagar, Kashmir, in 1929, his father then being in the Indian Medical Service. He was educated at Winchester College and Clare College, Cambridge, of which he was an exhibitioner. Before going to Cambridge he did national service with a commission in the Black Watch. In 1952 he went down from Cambridge with a university scholarship to St Thomas's Hospital and graduated in 1955. He took the diploma in child health in 1958 and the diploma in obstetrics the following year. He entered general practice at Woodstock in 1958, moving for a time to Abingdon, and later to Oxford. An early member of the Royal College of General Practitioners, he was in 1962-3 secretary and in 1973 treasurer of the Thames Valley faculty. From 1970 he was a member of the surgical teams of the Simon Trust vasectomy clinic at Swindon, and of the Elliot-Smith vasectomy clinic at Oxford.

In his professional work Dr Millar was skilful and scrupulous, and in the deep concern for his patients one saw the wide humanity that endeared him both to them and to his colleagues. In recent years his health had been far from robust, but with characteristic courage he made light of it. He is survived by his wife, son, and two daughters.—WGRML.

## A BIRO

MD

Dr A Biro, who was in general practice at Romford, Essex, died on 30 January. He was 74.

Alexander Biro, Sanyi to his friends, was born at Levoca, Slovakia, on 18 April 1902. He studied medicine at Prague, qualified in 1926, and obtained the specialist's diploma of obstetrics and gynaecology in 1931. In this capacity he practised at Kosice, gaining well-merited esteem and popularity. In 1939 he escaped, after an adventurous journey, to Palestine, where he worked as a labourer until he joined the British Army in Africa. After demobilisation in 1945 he returned to Kosice with his wife, a paediatrician who had spent the war years in Palestine and Egypt. Both were successful in rebuilding their professional careers and contributed to the reconstruction of the medical services of the region. In 1949, however, concerned about their personal safety, the Biros once more left their country and reached England to rejoin other fortunate survivors of their steadily diminishing generation.

After several locums in South London he became assistant and later partner in a busy singlehanded general practice at Romford, which by the time of his death had grown into a group of five practitioners. The success of the practice was in no small measure due to his unremitting efforts and devoted sense of duty carried out for 25 years, he having apparently fully recovered from a severe attack of myocardial infarction in 1952. He enjoyed immense popularity among his patients. The Biros travelled a great deal, loved the theatre and London, and most of all the company of friends, many of whom stayed in their hospitable home. A gallant man, affectionate husband, devoted doctor, and loyal colleague and friend, he will be sadly missed, as will his wife, who died tragically on the same day after a long illness. Both are survived by their sisters in London and Slovakia.—IF.

## G R THORPE

MB, CHB, DPH, MFCM

Dr G R Thorpe, medical officer of health of Faversham, Sittingbourne, Isle of Sheppey, and Swale until NHS reorganisation, died on 27 December. He was 62.

George Richard Thorpe was born at Wallasey on 13 October 1914 and educated at St Francis Xavier College, Liverpool. He began his medical training at Liverpool University, where he graduated in 1938, taking the DPH the following year. During the second world war he served in the Royal Navy. He then returned to public health practice at Liverpool, progressing to deputy medical officer at Oldbury in 1958, then being MOH of Louth, Mablethorpe, and Sutton-on-Sea before moving to Bedfordshire as senior MO and MOH in the 'sixties.

From 1971 until his early death Dr Thorpe lived at Whitstable, still working in Kent. He was a very gentle and courageous family man, respected by all who knew and worked with him. He is survived by his wife Blanche and by his son and daughter.

## E A GERRARD

VRD, MD, FRCOG, LLD

The fine tribute to Eric Gerrard (19 February, p 517) rightly stresses that his involvement in medical administration did not diminish his clinical interests. It may be added that his clinical skills, and especially his surgical skills, were of a high order. Gifted with rather small hands, he was a neat and swift worker; and, as might be expected, he was at his best as a demonstrator of the plastic procedures for prolapse for which the Manchester school was and is famous. He was a man very well organised. He was able to combine most assiduous care of his NHS patients with an extensive private practice, so as utterly to refute the suggestion that these forms of activity are incompatible. He took a long view of medical and surgical procedures with their late consequences, and many will recall his prescient warnings of the possible ill effects of oral contraceptives made in his presidential address to the BMA Annual Meeting at Manchester in 1964.

Finally, let it be said that his full life of service was accomplished despite intermittent attacks of painful illness borne with stoicism so admirable that few knew of his discomfort.—WICM.